

Minutes of... Children's Network Policy Council

Details

Date: January 27, 2010

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
 - Regina Coleman, County Counsel
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Naseem Farooqi, Board of Supervisors 4th District
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender – Juvenile
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Margaret Hill, SB County Superintendent of Schools
 - Kara Hunter, CASA of SB County
 - Veronica Kelley, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Crystal Miller, Children's Network
 - Chairman Ovitt, 4th District Board of Supervisors
 - Mike Schertell, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Michelle Scray, Probation Department
 - Robin Sherman-Young, Superior Courts
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Presiding Judge
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Susan Starbuck, Public Defender
 - Steve Couchot, TAD Administration
 - Wayne Thies, CAO's Office
 - Kathy Watkins, Human Services Administration
 - Greg Zerovnik, SB County Library Administration
 - Corina De Leon, Inland Regional Center
 - Kay Fangerow, Department of Public Health
 - Jeff Luther, Children and Family Services
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Welcome and Introductions:

Judge Slough welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. **A motion was made to approve the agenda by Linda Haugan and seconded by Amy Cousineau. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Chairman Ovitt, and seconded by Amy Cousineau.**

**Action Item:
Rate
Classification
Increase for
Children's
Hope**

Amy introduced the Executive Director of the Children's Hope facility, Mike Sudyka. The request for a RCL (Rate Classification Level) increase followed the IPC (Inter-Agency Placement Council) procedures. The Executive Director was able to get impact letters from Department of Public Health, Department of Behavioral Health, Public Defender, and local law enforcement. The initial request was made in October, 2009. This particular group home has been operating for 19 years and has been affiliated with the Nazarene Church, but has recently changed the business relationship. This facility is one of three in the county at an RCL 8.

- Questions: Will there be training for staff to meet the needs of the child that has more severe issues? Response: Yes, advanced training is being offered to staff.
 - Regina Coleman clarified from a legal standpoint that the RCL for a group home is set by the program needs and is not based on an individual child's needs. The group home is currently an RCL 8, and would need to have a higher level of supervision, etc.
 - If the group home does not get the RCL increase, will the Executive Director continue to operate the group home at an RCL 8? Response: Yes, will continue to run business and will have to identify the best way to serve clients.
 - Of the 6 beds, how many are filled with San Bernardino County children? Response: All 6 beds are filled with San Bernardino County children presently.
 - Once this Policy Council body approves the recommendation, what are the next steps? Response: The recommendation/action will be confirmed with the affected Board of Supervisors region, and a determination letter is written by the San Bernardino County CAO.
 - The County of San Bernardino does have some stake in the matter by approving or disapproving the letter of support. The state actually does the licensing.
 - The state will give the particular group home a provisional rate, then come out in later in a month and do an audit to see that the rate is actually justified.
 - It was stated there are less placements of Foster Care and Probation youth in group homes, but that the need still exists for the higher level of care.
 - **A motion was made to support the Rate Classification Increase for Children's Hope Group Home from and RCL 8 to RCL 10 by Michelle Scray and seconded by Mike Schertell with no opposition.**
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**Children's
Network
report:**

Amy Cousineau mentioned that Children's Network has been very busy with several projects.

- Held the Human Trafficking event on January 11th to recognition of the National Human Trafficking Day.
- Just got awarded a grant for \$16,500 to support CASE training from the Law and Justice Group.
- The next CASE (Coalition against Sexual Exploitation) event will be on February 17th with the survivor, Carissa Phelps to speak.
- Another CASE event will be on March 17th with the survivor Rachel Lloyd that operates the GEMs project out of New York. She is also a survivor and Amy mentioned it is probably the best program in the United States to assist sexually exploited children.
- Another event is being planned to screen a documentary that focuses on sexual exploitation in the United States. To find out more details go to Google and select nestfoundation.org to see a trailer on the movie.
- Sue Taylor's last accomplishment before she retired last month was her work on the Southern Counties region CDRT (Child Death Review Team) report. If anyone would like a copy, just contact Tammy Williams at 909-383-9657.
- Children's Network Annual Awards Breakfast will be on March 31, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. at the National Orange Show, San Bernardino. Margaret Hill was chosen to be the lifetime advocate, so come out and help us celebrate with Margaret.
- The Children's Network Call for Workshop proposals is being printed now and will be mailed shortly. There will be some exciting key note speakers this year. Amy is looking forward to some new and exciting workshops from Children's Network Policy Council members' staff.

**Children's
Fund report:**

Rebecca Stafford reported on the following work:

- Very successful Christmas Campaign, able to serve 30,000 children. In fact staff is out this week buying Christmas gifts for 2010, since the monetary donations were so good.
- They were able to distribute in excess of 820 coats for children in the desert and mountains.
- They are collaborating with law enforcement in the mountains to assist families that are homeless with children with clothes, sleeping pads, pillows, etc.

Other**Announcement:**

- It was announced that Jeff Luther was just promoted as an Assistant Director for CFS (Children and Family Services).
 - Greg Zerovnik was congratulated on acquiring his Ph.D.
 - Kara Hunter announced to save the date of April 1st at 5:30 p.m. to participate in the 3rd Annual Walk for Child Abuse Prevention. Once again In and Out Burger will be donating food.
 - Kathy Watkins reminded everyone about AB 12. This bill will extend foster care to age 21 by 2015. Foster youth will be able to opt in and out of care. To maintain foster care support, the youth will have to be involved with post secondary education, some level of employment, or in job training.
 - Margaret was thankful for the nomination as the lifetime advocate and really appreciates the honor.
 - Linda Haugan mentioned she is waiting for the Governor's Proposed Budget to come out and is worried there will be big cuts to Human Services. Human Services is already under funded and it is difficult to keep up with the mandated services for clients.
 - Susan Starbuck was welcomed and is enjoying her new position in Juvenile work, as she came from the Adult programs at the Public Defender's office.
 - Chris Gardner mentioned he is very happy with the networking that comes out of this group. There are now 3 Juvenile Drug Courts in San Bernardino County.
 - District Attorney Office is very busy working on the CASE (Coalition against Sexual Exploitation) project.
 - Ron Griffin announced that Preschool Services has received additional funding so that they can serve 290 more Head Start children ages 3 to 5.
 - Ron mentioned progress is being made on the Nurse Visitation program for moms and infants, through collaboration of Public Health Department, etc.
 - Charles Adams stated they are busy with the reporting and over-site of the 13 million dollars that Community Action Partnership was just awarded.
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- Mike Schertell mentioned the state is now reviewing the proposal for funding of CASE by the use of some MHSA funds. He hopes to hear soon if it will be awarded.
- Corina De Leon, Chief of Community Services at the Inland Regional Center announced that Mary Lynn Clark, Executive Director is retiring as of January 30th with well over 30 years. Corina will be the representative from IRC for Policy Council, an Executive Director is chosen.
- Chairman Ovitt thanked the Policy Council members that had participated in the Community Indicators report that defines quality of life issues, and what areas need improve upon in San Bernardino County.
- Chairman Ovitt announced there will be a new CAO, Greg Devereaux starting on February 15th. He would like him to meet the Policy Council members and possibly attend a meeting.
- Amy thanked Corina De Leon for the use of the conference facilities on January 11th. Corina mentioned the facilities are open to all Policy Council members.
- Judge Slough spoke about some of the accomplishments she saw in 2009:
 - The 3rd Juvenile Drug Court.
 - Wraparound services are used in collaboration so the child can have the best placement possible.
 - The TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) program that assists foster youth and those that have transitioned out of the system:
 - Probation Department has the Gateway Program that works with boys for parenting, etc.;
 - CASA, (Court Appointed Special Advocates) under the leadership of Kara Hunter, has developed a component for foster youth that are pregnant.
 - Thanks to Children's Fund for being so helpful to our families.
 - Judge Slough would like to see a focus on homeless youth, not just dependents of the court and/or wards of the court, but assist youth that are homeless in general in 2010.

**Public
Comment**

None

Next Meeting

February 24, 2010 at noon, at the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.
